

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

DATE DISTR. 26 Sept. 1951

NO. OF PAGES 1

COUNTRY **Bulgaria**

SUBJECT **The Rose Oil Industry**

A 3179

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS. **1**
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO
~~ACQUIRED~~

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 Forwarded herewith for your information and retention is a report on the
Bulgarian rose oil industry [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

THIS
DO N

NOV 9 1971

Ref

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

[illegible]

ORR **X**

SECRET

25X1

THIS IS AN
DO NOT DETACH

The Bulgarian Rose Oil *Industry*

During the war (1939 to 1945) no rose oil was exported from Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Agrarian and Cooperative Bank which held monopoly on purchasing, processing and selling attar of roses had in its warehouse about 6.5 tons of attar of roses. This was either purchased from the producers at 35,000 leva the kilogram or else confiscated if a hidden quantity was discovered. Due to lack of market and the low price at which the Bulgarian Agrarian and Cooperative Bank was buying the rose petals from the producers the manufacture of attar of roses was almost at a stand still. The owners of roses' gardens started uprooting the roses.

In compliance with the Trade Agreement between the USSR and Bulgaria the former purchased from the Bulgarian Agrarian and Cooperative Bank 5 tons of rose oil at a price of 110,000 leva per kilogram (payment in leva). At the same time the price at the local market was 250,000 leva per kilogram. Locally attar of roses was used in a very limited amount, chiefly by the perfume factories whose capacity is not large. As far as I know every year a Trade agreement is signed between Bulgaria and the USSR.

25X1 The first sale of attar of roses after the war, paid in dollars, was made by the young Sofia merchant [redacted] The quantity exported was 15 kilograms, the price 1150.- dollars per kilogram. The rose oil was transported by train to Istanbul and from there by plane to New York.

25X1 Thereafter several small transactions in dollars were concluded [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] A bigger

quantity of attar of roses, 200 kilograms, was exported by plane from Sofia

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

The Directorate of Water Communications asked the Bulgarian Trading Bank to find a buyer for 100 kilograms attar of roses, allocated to the Directorate by the Bulgarian Government in order that the latter might obtain free currency to buy navigation instruments for the Bulgarian navigation. The Bulgarian trading bank made inquiries, chiefly in the USA without success.

25X1

It is apparent Bulgaria is no more at the international market as a chief producer of attar of roses because she has only 1.5 which quantity has decreased few other sales. The bulge of the quantity, 5 tons, belongs to the USSR who will for years direct the world market with the Bulgarian attar of roses, taking into consideration the fact that rose oil is not an ~~xxx~~ item that can be sold quickly in large quantities.

In addition rose shrubs were taken from Bulgaria to the Soviet Union, "for experiment purposes" they say and it will not be a surprise if one day the Soviet "experiment" production surpasses the rose oil production of Bulgaria.

The old processing and commercial firms, such as SHIPKOV, PAPAZOV, BAGAROV, KHADZHI DIMITROVI, ETC. do not exist any more. The Bulgarian Agrarian and Cooperative Bank did not preserve the separate processing centers but included them in one working for the laboratory of the Bank, which had a

SECRET./.

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1



SECRET